

[Mrs. Ella Boney]

Burks: L.L. [-260-1??] [DUP?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert J. Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20

DATE November 26, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant. Mrs. Ella Boney, 2237 R St.
2. Date and time of interview. Nov. 26, 1938. 10:00 a.m.—1:10 p.m.
3. Place of interview. Residence
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. Wife.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. None.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Rather shabby two story furnished. Lounge, on one side. Library table in front of street window. Small radio on one end of it. Old fashioned bookcase in corner. Five rockers and two straight chairs at various positions. [???

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th

DATE November 26, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Ancestry. Negro

Library of Congress

2. Place and date of birth. Henry Co. Kentucky Oct. 12, 1869
3. Family. Three sons-one daughter.
4. Place lived in, with dates. Family moved to Hill City Kansas when I was six. I lived there until 1918 and went to Valentine Nebr. Left there in 1921 and came to Lincoln unto present.
5. Education, with dates. Grade school education.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Domestic work, and housewife.
7. Special skills and interests. Church worker, Quilting.
8. Community and religious activities. Holiness.
9. Description of informant. Tall, brown-skinned complexioned; hair mixed grey.
10. Other points gained in interview.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20

DATE Nov. 26, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Ella Boney, 2237 R. St.

"My father brought us to Hill City Kansas when I was nine years old and I guess I lived there about almost the biggest portion of my life.

That was shortly after the first Negro exodus from the south. Fourteen miles from us a Negro settlement was set up; there was about two hundred and fifty or three hundred in

Library of Congress

all. A township was formed and it was named Nicodemus [Kansas?], the only town in that state completely populated by Negroes. There was only a few of us in Hill City so we went to Nicodemus for our social functions. I had to go three and a half miles to school, and when we first came to Hill City there was neither a white or colored church we would hold our services in different homes both races would worship together

One of the biggest events of the year for Negroes in Kansas is the Emancipation proclamation picnic every fourth of August. We celebrate four days in a large grove just out side of Nicodemus, and Negroes come from all over the state. There are about twelve barbecue pits dug and they are going all day barbecuing chickens, turkeys, ducks, pigs, sides of beef etc. And there is stands that just sell chirterlings coon, possum and cracklin' corn bread. The town constable and his force sees that every one is orderly and there has never been any serious trouble only once over a baseball game and that was quickly-straightened out.

For a long time I was a member of the Baptist church, but some years 2 ago I joined the Holiness church because I like its doctrine.

Our belief, is that we all are born in the church and after that when you reach your maturity, you have to live free from sin to attain the kingdom of heaven.

You we are first forgiven it constitutes the sins that we have done. Sacrification comes afterwards and we live holy for the lord.

You dont have to join the Holiness church we just meet together to worship the lord. An was the custom in biblical times we have a feet wash and ointment. And all believers take sacrament the first Sunday in each month.

We haven't a very big membership in Lincoln, only about twenty five members. But our Sunday school ranges from sixteen to twenty."